IN THE CLAIMS:

1   1.   (Cancelled)

1   2.   (Currently Amended)   A mail piece tracking system including:

2   A.   one or more servers that perform the operations of:

3   i.   linking mail piece delivery status information with respective user

4   identifiers,

5   ii.   linking to the delivery status information an attachment consisting

6   of one or more messages from the senders of the mail pieces,

7   iii.   producing listings of the delivery status information for the mail

8   pieces directed to respective users that are associated with the user

9   identifiers, and

10   iv.   including links to the respective associated messages in the listings

11   of the delivery status information; and

12   B.   one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective

13   users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status infor-

14   mation and the links to the associated messages.

1   3.   (Withdrawn) A mail piece tracking system including:

2   A.   one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with

3   user identifiers,   associating with the delivery status information for a

4   given mail piece related transaction information, producing listings of the

5   delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users,

6   and including a link to the transaction information in the listing of the de-

7   livery status information;

8   B.   one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective

9   users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status infor-

10   mation.

1   4.   (Currently Amended) A mail piece tracking system including:

2   A.   one or more servers the perform the operations of:

3   i.   linking mail piece delivery status information with respective user

4   identifiers,

5   ii.   <u>linking to the delivery status information an attachment consisting</u>

6   <u>of</u><s>associating</s> information relating to the contents of the respective

7   mail pieces <s>with the delivery status information</s>,

8   iii.   producing respective listings of the delivery status information for

9   mail pieces directed to respective users that are associated with the

10   user identifiers, and

11   iv.   associating the information relating to the contents of the respective

12   mail pieces with the mail piece delivery status information in the

13   listings and

14   B.   one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective

15   users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status infor-

16   mation and the associated information relating to the contents of the re-

17   spective mail pieces.

1   5. – 6. (Cancelled)

1   7.   (Withdrawn) A mail piece tracking system including:

2   A.   one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with

3   user identifiers producing listings of the delivery status information for

4   mail pieces directed to the respective users, and including in the mail piece

5   delivery status information:

6   i.   a sender identifier,

7   ii.   a mail type identifier,

8   iii.   a delivery service identifier, and

3

9   iv.   links to on-line information provided by or associated with the

10   sender.

1   8.   (Cancelled)

1   9.   (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 10 wherein

2   A.   the step of linking mail piece delivery status information to the user identi-

3   fiers includes updating the information, and

4   B.   the step of providing a listing of mail piece delivery status information in-

5   cludes providing in the list the updated information.

1   10.   (Withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps

2   of:

3   A.   associating respective users with user identifiers;

4   B.   associating with the identified users mail pieces directed to or sent by the

5   respective users;

6   C.   linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective

7   mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the delivery status informa-

8   tion including information that identifies the senders of the respective mail

9   pieces that are directed to the identified users; and

10   D.   providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces and the

11   mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier

12   that corresponds to the given user.

1   11.   (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 10 wherein

2   the step of linking mail piece delivery status information with the user identifiers includes

3   associating therewith messages from the respective senders.

1   12.   (Cancelled)

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1   13.   (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 11 wherein

2   the step of linking mail piece delivery status information to the user identifiers includes

3   associating therewith messages from the respective delivery services.

1   14.-19. (Cancelled)

1   20.   (Withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

2   A.   associating respective users with user identifiers;

3   B.   associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or

4   sent by the respective users;

5   C.   linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective

6   mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece delivery status

7   information including the source of a given mail piece; and

8   D.   providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces associated

9   with the given user and the mail piece delivery status information that is

10   linked to the user identifier that is associated with the given user and fur-

11   ther providing a graphical interface connected to notify the given user of

12   the delivery status of the respective mail pieces, the interface being con-

13   figured to display information concerning the source of a given mail piece.

1   21.   (Currently Amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including

2   the steps of:

3   A.   associating respective users with user identifiers;

4   B.   associating with the respective users mail pieces directed to or sent by the

5   respective users;

6   C.   linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective

7   mail pieces to the respective user identifiers that are associated with the

8   users to which the mail pieces are associated,

5

9   D.   <u>linking to the delivery status information an attachment consisting of</u>~~fur-~~

10   ~~ther associating, with the mail piece delivery status information,~~ informa-

11   tion concerning the contents of the respective mail pieces; and

12   E.   providing a graphical interface connected to notify the respective users of

13   the delivery status of the respective mail pieces, the interface being con-

14   figured to:

15   i.   provide the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to

16   the user identifiers that are associated with the respective users, and

17   ii.   provide to the respective users the associated information concern-

18   ing the contents of the respective mail pieces.

1   22.   (Currently Amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including

2   the steps of:

3   A.   associating respective users with respective user identifiers;

4   B.   associating with the respective users respective mail pieces directed to or

5   sent by the respective users;

6   C.   linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective

7   mail pieces to the respective user identifiers that are associated with the

8   users to which the mail pieces are associated;

9   D.   <u>linking to the delivery status information an attachment consisting of</u>~~asso-~~

10   ~~ciating with the delivery status information~~ images of at least a portion of

11   the contents of the respective mail pieces; and

12   E.   providing to respective users listings of the respective mail pieces and the

13   mail piece delivery status information that are linked to the user identifiers

14   that correspond to the respective users; and

15   F.   providing a graphical interface connected to:

16   i.   notify the respective users of the delivery status of the associated re-

17   spective mail pieces, and

18   ii.   provide to the users the associated images of at least a portion of the

19   contents of the respective mail pieces.

1   23.   (Currently Amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including

2   the steps of:

3   A.   associating respective users with respective user identifiers;

4   B.   associating with the users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the

5   respective users;

6   C.   linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective

7   mail pieces to the respective user identifiers,

8   D.   <u>linking to the delivery status information an attachment consisting of</u>~~asso-~~

9   ~~ciating, with the mail piece delivery status information,~~ images of infor-

10   mation associated with respective mail pieces; and

11   E.   providing to respective users listings of the respective mail pieces and the

12   mail piece delivery status information that are linked to the user identifiers

13   that correspond to the respective users,

14   F.   providing a graphical interface connected to:

15   i.   notify the respective users of the delivery status of the associated re-

16   spective mail pieces, and

17   ii.   provide to the users the images of information associated with the

18   respective mail pieces.

1   24.   (Previously Presented) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim

2   23 in which the interface is further configured to provide one or more messages associ-

3   ated with the respective mail pieces.

1   25   (Withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

2   A.   associating respective users with respective user identifiers;

3   B. associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or

4   sent by the respective users;

5   C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the associated re-

6   spective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece deliv-

7   ery status information including one or more links to information provided

8   by senders of the respective mail pieces; and

9   D. providing to a given user a listing of the associated respective mail pieces

10   and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user

11   identifier that corresponds to the given user and providing a graphical in-

12   terface connected to notify the given user of the delivery status of the as-

13   sociated respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to provide

14   one or more links to the information provided by a sender of a given mail

15   piece.

1 26. (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 25 wherein

2 the information provided by the sender includes one or more of transaction history, ac-

3 count balance, and payment option information.

1 27. (Cancelled)

1 28. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program

2 instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when

3 executed causing:

4   A. one or more servers to:

5   i. link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers,

6   ii. <u>link to the delivery status information an attachment consisting of</u>

7   ~~associate with the delivery status information~~ messages from the

8   senders of the respective mail pieces,

9   iii.   produce listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces

10   directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifi-

11   ers, and

12   iv.   provide links to the messages in the listings of the delivery status

13   information; and

14   B.   one or more browsers to provide to the respective users associated with the

15   user identifiers access to the listings of the delivery status information and

16   the linked messages..

1   29.   (Currently Amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program

2   instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when

3   executed causing:

4   A.   one or more servers to:

5   i.   link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers,

6   ii.   link to the delivery status information ~~related~~ sender transaction in-

7   formation, produce listings of the delivery status information for

8   mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the

9   user identifiers, and

10   iii.   associate the links to the transaction information with the listings of

11   the delivery status information.

12   B.   one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information

13   linked to a given user identifier and also to links to the related transaction

14   information that associated with the delivery status information.

1   30.   (Currently Amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program

2   instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when

3   executed causing:

4   A.   one or more servers to:

5   i.   link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers,

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6   ii.   <u>link to the delivery status information an attachment consisting</u>

7   <u>of</u>~~associate~~ information relating to the contents of the respective

8   mail pieces ~~with the delivery status information~~,

9   iii.   produce listings of the mail piece delivery status information for

10   mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the

11   user identifiers, and

12   iv.   include in the listings the associated information relating to the

13   contents of the mail pieces; and

14   B.   one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information

15   linked to a given user identifier and further to provide access to the associ-

16   ated information relating to the contents of the mail pieces.

1   31.   (Cancelled)

1   32.   (Withdrawn) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program instruc-

2   tions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed

3   causing:

4   A.   one or more servers to

5   link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers, the deliv-

6   ery status information for a given mail piece including

7   i.   a sender identifier,

8   ii.   a mail type identifier,

9   iii.   a delivery service identifier, and

10   iv.   related messages from the sender and the delivery service, and

11   v.   produce listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces

12   directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifi-

13   ers; and

14   B.   one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information

15   linked to a given user identifier

1   33.   (Cancelled)

1   34   (Withdrawn) A method of operating a computer system, the method including the

2   steps of:

3   A. associating a given user session with a user identifier;

4   B. retaining messages relating to the status of the session at a server and includ-

5   ing in each message a message sequence number and an attribute that is asso-

6   ciated with the user identifier; and

7   C. using the messages to continue the session from a point at which the session

8   last communicated with the server, in response to the user identifier being pre-

9   sented at a node that communicates with the server.

1   35.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 further including a step of maintaining an

2   index of the messages, the index being sorted by the attribute that is associated with the

3   user identifier.

1   36.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further including:

2   A.   a step of communicating through the session and providing information

3   relating to a mailing label;

4   B.   in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the in-

5   formation relating to the mailing label;

6   C.   in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information

7   relating to the mailing label; and

8   D.   a step of ending the session by printing the mailing label in accordance

9   with the retained information.

1   37.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36 further including:

2   A.   in the step of communicating through the session providing information

3   relating to postage for a mail piece;

4   B.   in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the informa-

5   tion relating to the postage;

6   C.   in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information relat-

7   ing to the postage; and

8   D.   in the step of ending the session printing the postage in accordance with the

9   retained information.

1   38.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further including:

2   A.   a step of communicating through the session and providing information

3   relating to postage for a mail piece;

4   B.   in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the in-

5   formation relating to the postage;

6   C.   in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information

7   relating to the postage; and

8   D.   a step of ending the session by printing the postage in accordance with the

9   retained information.

1   39.   (Withdrawn)   A method of operating a computer network including the steps of:

2   A.   associating a user session with a user identifier that is presented to gain

3   access to information maintained by the network from a first node that

4   communicates with the network;

5   B.   retaining a queue of messages relating to the user session and associating

6   the queue with the user identifier; and

7   C.   in response to the user identifier being later presented at the first node or a

8   second node that communicates over the network, continuing the user

9   session at the first or second node by using the messages to present the

10   session at the point at which the session last communicated with the

11   server.

1   40.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 36 wherein the step of retaining a queue of

2   messages includes indexing the messages by the user identifier.

1   41.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 37 wherein the step of retaining a queue of

2   messages further includes maintaining the queue at each of a plurality of interconnected

3   nodes, a given one of the interconnected nodes at which the user identifier is provided

4   presenting the user session at the point at which the session last communicated with the

5   server.

1   42.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 further including conducting the user ses-

2   sion by communicating over the network using a browser or a client executable.

1   43.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 37 wherein the step of presenting the user

2   identifier includes providing a machine-readable code to a scanner that communicates

3   with the node.

1   44.   (Withdrawn)   A method of operating a postal service computer system, the

2   method including the steps of:

3   A.   associating a given user postal mailing label session with a user identifier;

4   B.   retaining messages relating to the status of the session at a server and in-

5   cluding in each message a message sequence number and an attribute that

6   is associated with the user identifier, the messages further including mail-

7   ing label information provided through the session; and

8   C.   using the messages to continue the session from a point at which the ses-

9   sion last communicated with the server by presenting the mailing label in-

10   formation provided through the session, in response to the user identifier

11   being presented at a node that communicates with the server.

1   45.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44 further including a step of maintaining an

2   index of the messages, the index being sorted by the attribute that is associated with the

3   user identifier.

1   46.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45 further including the step of ending the

2   continued session by printing the mailing label in accordance with the retained informa-

3   tion.

1   47.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46 further including

2   A.   in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the in-

3   formation relating to postage;

4   B.   in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information

5   relating to the postage; and

6   C.   in the step of ending the session printing the postage in accordance with

7   the retained information.